IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	WALKER et al.) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigne
Serial No.: Not Yet A	ssigned) Attorney Docket No: 03-068
Filing Date: March 29	9, 2004) CUSTOMER NO.: 22927
	·	<i>)</i>)
For: APPARATUS	AND METHOD FOR)
FACILITATIN	NG TEAM PLAY OF SLOT))
MACHINES		,)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 03.29.04 By

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a thorough search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Nor shall the filing of this information disclosure statement be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 and to independently ascertain their teaching.

- Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the pending U.S. patent 1. [] applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider and independently ascertain the teachings and relevance of those applications with respect to the instant application. Applicants would be pleased to provide the Examiner with a copy of these applications upon request. For each of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the 2. [] English language, a European Search Report from a counterpart European application is enclosed. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): For each of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the 3. [] English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): 4. [X] No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure
 - [X] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application.

Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

[] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491.

- [] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- 5. [] No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.
- 6. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action). The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is to be paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.
- 7. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance, but before the payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
 - a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and
 - b. this document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.
 - c. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.

8. []	A fe	e is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since					
	it is	being filed in compliance with:					
	[]	37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable					
		and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue;					
	[]	37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in					
		this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Continuation					
		application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the					
		attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue.					
	[]	The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.					
9. []	I hereby certify:						
	[]	that each item of information contained in the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a					
		counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of					
		this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of such communication is enclosed.					
	[]	that no item of information contained or listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-					
		1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart					
		foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making					
		reasonable inquiry, no item of information was known to any individual designated					
		in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information					
		Disclosure Statement.					
10 []	Plea	se accept payment of the fees due as indicated below.					

-]	A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee due under 37
		C.F.R. 1.17(p).

- [] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0271 in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- 11. [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. A copy of this authorization is attached.
- 12. [] No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Respectfully submitted,

March 29, 2004

Date

Geoffrey M. Gelman Agent for Applicants Registration No. 51,727 ggelman@walkerdigital.com (203) 461-7331/phone

(203) 461-7300/fax

				Docket Number	Serial Number	_			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION			03-068	Not Yet Ass	Not Yet Assigned				
			Applicants	Applicants WALKER et al.					
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION									WALKER et al.
			Filing Date	Filing Date Group Art Unit					
				March 29, 2004	Not Y	et Assign	ed		
			U.S. PAT	TENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS		G DATI IF OPRIAT	
	Α	4,636,951	01/13/87	Harlick	364	412			
	В	4,669,731	06/02/87	Clarke	273	143 R			
	С	4,837,422	06/06/89	Dethloff et al.	235	380		<u> </u>	
	D	4,837,728	06/06/89	Barrie et al.	364	412			
	Е	5,042,818	08/27/91	Weingardt	273	292			
	F	5,116,055	05/26/92	Tracy	273	138 A			
	G	5,123,649	06/23/92	Tiberio	273	143 R			
	Н	5,173,851	12/22/92	Off et al.	364	401			
	I	5,178,390	01/12/93	Okada	. 273	143 R			
	J	5,179,517	01/12/93	Sarbin et al.	364	410			
	K	5,275,400	01/04/94	Weingardt et al.	273	85 CP			
	L	5,280,909	01/25/94	Tracy	273	138 A			
			FOREIGN I	PATENT DOCUMENTS					
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation		
							Yes	No	
	M	GB 2 161 008 A	01/02/86	United Kingdom					
			OTHER DO	CUMENTS (Including autho	r, Title, Date, Pertin	ent Pages,	Etc.)		
	N	Grochowski, John, "Players Look for Edge With Casino Gimmicks", Chicago Sun-Times, August 25, 1995, Section: Weekend Plus, Gaming, pg. 15, NC.							
EXAMIN	ER	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		DATE CONSIDERED:					

				Docket Number	Seria	l Number			
•			03-068	igned					
		Applicants							
INFO	RMA'	FION DISCLOSURE (CITATION	WALKER et al.					
			Filing Date		Group Ai	rt Unit	it		
				March 29, 2004		Not Yet Assigned			
			U.S. PAT	ENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUB- CLASS		G DATE IF OPRIATE
	0	5,324,035	06/28/94	Morris et al.		273	138 A		
	P	5,342,049	08/30/94	Wichinsky et al.		273	119 R		-
	Q	5,377,973	01/03/95	Jones et al.		273	85C P		
	R	5,393,061	02/28/95	Manship et al.		273	143 R		•
	S	5,409,225	04/25/95	Kelly et al.		273	138 R		
	Т	5,472,194	12/05/95	Breeding et al.		273	138 A		
-	U	5,482,289	01/09/96	Weingardt		273	269		
	V	5,531,440	07/02/96	Dabrowski et al.		463	12		
	W	5,559,312	09/24/96	Lucero		235	380		
	X	5,564,700	10/15/96	Celona		463	27		
	Y	5,580,309	12/03/96	Piechowiak et al.		463	16		
	Z	5,611,535	03/18/97	Tiberio		273	143 R		
			FOREIGN P	ATENT DOCUMENTS				1	
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation	
	_							Yes	No
									
			OTHER DO	CUMENTS (Including autho	r, Title, Do	ite, Pertine	ent Pages,	Etc.)	
	AA	Rose, Bob, "New Ways For the House to Win", St. Louis Post-Dispatch, October 3, 1996, Section: Get Out, pg. 50.							
	BB	"Hot Slots & Reel Dea	ls", Atlantic (City Insider, October 1996	, Vol. 1,	No. 2.		-	·. <u>-</u>
EXAMINI	ER	1.		DATE CONSIDERED:			······································		
EXAMINI	ER: Init	tial if citation considered, whether nclude copy of this form with next	or not citation is in	conformance with MPEP Section 60	9; Draw line	through cita	ation if not in	n confor	mance

1			 	Docket Number	Serial Number				
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION			03-068	Not Yet Ass	t Yet Assigned				
			Applicants						
			WALKER et al.						
			Filing Date	Group A	rt Unit				
				March 29, 2004	Not Ye	Not Yet Assigned			
			U.S. PAT	ENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS		G DATE IF OPRIATE	
	CC	5,611,730	03/18/97	Weiss	463	20			
	DD	5,621,201	04/15/97	Langhans et al.	235	380		·	
	EE	5,639,088	06/17/97	Schneider et al.	273	138.2			
	FF	5,655,961	08/12/97	Acres et al.	463	27			
	GG	5,674,128	10/07/97	Holch et al.	463	42			
	НН	6,142,872	11/07/00	Walker et al.	463	16			
	II	US 6,361,441 B1	03/26/02	Walker et al.	463	42			
	JJ	US 6,364,765 B1	04/02/02	Walker et al.	463	16			
			FOREIGN P	ATENT DOCUMENTS		,	•		
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation		
	-						Yes	No	
			OTHER DO	CUMENTS (Including author	or, Title, Date, Pertin	ent Pages,	Etc.)		
	KK	"Triple Play Draw Pok 1998, (http://www.igtg		no Industry By Storm", IGss/02-18-98 html).	GT Press Releases	, Februa	ry 18,		
						·			
EXAMINI	ER			DATE CONSIDERED:					